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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of making a woven or knitted polyester fabric having corresponding color contrast and surface geometry contrast between first regions and second regions in the fabric, said method comprising:

(a) providing a polyester fabric, said fabric having yarns forming a pile, said first pile having a first pile height, said fabric having first regions and second regions;

(b) providing dye in an aqueous process and in an unfixed state into said yarns of said fabric;

(c) drying said fabric produced in step (b) by applying radio frequency energy to the fabric, said drying step being performed under conditions sufficient to at least partially dry said fabric and yet also without fixing a substantial portion of said unfixed dye to said pile of said fabric,

(d) etching said fabric upon said pile in a predetermined pattern by applying to said pile of said second regions a yarn-degrading composition, said yarn-degrading composition being effective to degrade yarns in said second regions, thereby forming in said second regions yarns having a second pile height, said yarn degrading composition comprising an alkaline paste; and

(e) fixing said dye in said first and second regions; thereby forming a fabric having first regions of a first pile height that are dyed to a first color, and second regions of a second pile height that are dyed to a second color, said second pile height being shorter less than said first pile height, and generating a substantial color contrast between the dyed color in the first region as compared to the second region, which provides a predetermined positive ΔL^* value differential between said first regions and said second regions.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said color contrast ΔL^* value is at least about 25 percent difference in color contrast.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of making a polyester fabric by chemically etching fibers of the fabric, said method comprising the steps of:

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- (a) providing a polyester fabric having a first side, said first side having a pile, said pile comprising a plurality of yarns having a first height, said plurality of yarns forming a first plane in said fabric;
- (b) applying to said first side of said fabric an aqueous solution containing an unfixed dye;
- (c) drying said fabric produced in step (b) by applying radio frequency energy to the fabric, said drying step being performed under conditions sufficient to at least partially dry said fabric without fixing a substantial portion of said unfixed dye to said pile of said fabric,
- (d) applying a mask to said first side of said fabric;
- (e) selectively covering with said mask predetermined portions of said fabric, said covered portions of said fabric comprising first regions, said uncovered portions of said fabric comprising second regions; wherein said first regions further comprise first yarns having unfixed dye applied thereon, said second regions further comprising second yarns having unfixed dye applied thereon;
- (f) applying a chemical etching agent to said second regions of said fabric, the chemical etching agent comprising an alkaline paste,
- (g) chemically reacting said alkaline paste etching agent with said second yarns of said second regions, thereby shortening by chemical degradation at least a portion of said second yarns in said second regions to a second height which is less than said first height;
- (h) removing a portion of said unfixed dye in said second yarns of said second regions of said fabric; and
- (i) heating said fabric to fix said unfixed dye in said first and second regions of said fabric; thereby forming a fabric having second regions which exhibit a different pile height and a different color intensity as compared to the pile height and the color intensity of said first regions, wherein the yarns or fibers in said first region exhibit a first L* value, the yarns or fibers in said second region exhibit a second L* value, and the difference between the first L* value and the second L* value is equal to about 10% or more of the first L* value; and
- (j) washing the fabric to remove residual chemical etching agent and unfixed dye remaining on the fabric.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising the following steps:

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- (j) providing in said polyester fabric a third region;
- (k) applying a mask to said first side of said fabric to expose only said third region;
- (l) applying unfixed dye to said third region;
- (m) applying an alkaline paste chemical etching agent to said third region, thereby chemically etching said third region; and
- (n) heating said fabric to fix said unfixed dye in said third region; thereby forming a fabric having third regions which exhibit a different pile height and a different color intensity as compared to said first and second regions.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the yarns comprise polyester, and the yarn-degrading composition is an alkaline composition.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the yarns comprise polyester, and the yarn-degrading composition is an alkaline composition.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the yarns comprise polyester, and the chemical etching agent is an alkaline composition.

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22. (Currently Amended) A method for making a fabric having regions exhibiting different pile heights and a color contrast between said regions exhibiting different pile height, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a polyester fabric having a pile on one side thereof, said pile comprising a plurality of yarns or fibers having a first height,
- (b) applying in an aqueous process an unfixed dye to said pile of said fabric,
- (c) drying said fabric produced in step (b) by application of electromagnetic radio frequency energy to the fabric, said drying step being performed under conditions sufficient to at least partially dry said fabric but without fixing a substantial portion of said unfixed dye to said pile of said fabric,
- (d) selectively applying a chemical etching agent to said pile of said fabric, said chemical etching agent being an alkaline paste, the agent being applied to one or more second regions of said pile of said fabric and not applied to one or more first regions of said pile of said fabric,
- (e) reacting said chemical etching agent with said one or more second regions of said pile of said fabric, thereby etching said yarns or fibers in said one or more second regions to produce yarns or fibers having a second height, said second height being less than said first height, and
- (f) heating said fabric produced in step (e) in a superheated steamer to fix said dye to said yarns or fibers in said first and second regions of said pile of said fabric, wherein the heating temperature is about 180 degrees C;
- (g) washing the fabric to remove residual chemical etching agent and unfixed dye remaining on the fabric; and
- (h) drying the fabric at elevated temperature;
- (i) thereby producing a fabric having a pile on a surface thereof, said pile comprising a plurality of yarns or fibers in one or more first regions having a first height and one or more second regions having a second height, said second height being less than said first height, and said yarns or fibers in said second region exhibiting a different dye color than said yarns or fibers in said first region;
- (j) wherein the yarns or fibers in said first region exhibit a first L* value, the yarns or fibers in said second region exhibit a second L* value, and the difference between the first L* value and the second L* value is equal to about 10% or more of the first L* value;

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23-25 (Canceled).